

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BONN 15950 01 OF 02 091457Z

53

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 USIA-04 IO-03 SAM-01 DRC-01 /066 W

----- 056428

R 091451Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5544

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15950

11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ET

SUBJECT: STERN INTERVIEW WITH CROWN PRINCE

REF: ADDIS ABABA 11895

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF FULL TEXT OF
STERN INTERVIEW. BEGIN TEXT:

STERN: HOW DID YOU REACT TO THE NEWS THAT THE MILITARY
WHO OVERTHREW YOUR FATHER INTEND TO MAKE YOU
KING OF ETHIOPIA?

ASFA WOSSEN: I TALKED WITH MY WIFE AND MY SON, AND
I DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATION. I AM
NOW ONLY WAITING FOR OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION
FROM ADDIS ABABA. AS SOON AS IT ARRIVES,
I SHALL FLY TO ETHIOPIA. I AM HOPEFUL
STILL THIS MONTH.

STERN: YOU WILL BE A KING WITHOUT POWER, WITHOUT
ANY INFLUENCE ON EVERYDAY POLITICAL AFFAIRS.
DOESN'T THAT BOTHER YOU?

ASFA WOSSEN: NO. I WANT TO SERVE MY COUNTRY AND MY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BONN 15950 01 OF 02 091457Z

PEOPLE AS AN ORDINARY CITIZEN, AS A

COMMON SOLDIER. I AM NOT AMBITIOUS. IT
IS MY DUTY TO OFFER MY SERVICES TO THE
NEW ETHIOPIA, FOR THE BENEFIT AND WELFARE
OF MY PEOPLE.

STERN: HOW DO YOU STAND WITH THE MILITARY WHO NOW
GOVERN ETHIOPIA?

ASFA WOSSEN: ON THE BEST OF TERMS, AND NOT ONLY AS OF
THE PRESENT. I ALWAYS ADVOCATED CHANGE
IN ETHIOPIA. AS YOU KNOW, I PARTICIPATED
IN THE COUP AGAINST THE HAILE SELASSIE
REGIME IN 1960, AND I DID THIS VOLUNTARILY
AND NOT, AS HAS BEEN SAID, UNDER DURESS.
I ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT ONLY THE MILITARY
COULD ONE DAY BRING ABOUT CHANGE IN
ETHIOPIA. I HAVE THE GREATEST RESPECT AND
ADMIRATION FOR THE SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS
NOW GOVERNING MY COUNTRY. I WISH THEM ALL
THE BEST AND I PLACE MYSELF AT THEIR DIS-
POSAL.

STERN: YOU WERE GOVERNOR OF WOLLO PROVINCE WHERE A
FAMINE BROKE OUT LAST YEAR. MORE THAN 100,000
PEOPLE DIED. WHAT DID YOU DO TO PREVENT THIS?

ASFA WOSSEN: I WAS VERY SICK AT THAT TIME AND ALSO I
WAS NOT IN ETHIOPIA. I DO KNOW, HOWEVER,
THAT MY SUBORDINATE AUTHORITIES IN WOLLO
HAD FREQUENTLY WARNED THE THEN PRIME
MINISTER AKLILU HABTE WOLD OF THE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BONN 15950 02 OF 02 091456Z

53

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 USIA-04 SAM-01 IO-03 DRC-01 /066 W

----- 056429

R 091451Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5545

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 15950

IMPENDING CATASTROPHE. THE GOVERNMENT
DID NOT PAY ANY ATTENTION. I EXPRESSLY
HOLD THEM RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH DEATH.

STERN: HAILE SELASSIE ALLEGEDLY DEPOSITED ABROAD CON-
SIDERABLE SUMS OF MONEY. WHAT DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT THIS?

ASFA WOSSEN: THAT IS CORRECT. THE EX-EMPEROR HAS
TREMENDOUS AMOUNTS AT HIS DISPOSAL IN
SWISS BANKS. IN ADDITION, HE HAS
INTERESTS IN VARIOUS ENTERPRISES IN THE
WEST, FOR INSTANCE IN SCANDINAVIA. I
HAVE NEVER SEEN ONE PENNY OF THIS MONEY--
ALL I SPEND COMES FROM AN ACCOUNT WHICH
MY MOTHER, THE EMPRESS MENEN, ESTABLISHED
YEARS AGO FOR ME AND MY FAMILY.

STERN: WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH THE MONEY WHICH HAILE
SELASSIE DEPOSITED ABROAD?

ASFA WOSSEN: THIS MONEY BELONGS TO THE ETHIOPIAN
PEOPLE AND WE SHALL SEE TO IT THAT EX-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BONN 15950 02 OF 02 091456Z

EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE RETURNS EVERY
PENNY. END TEXT.

2. ACCORDING TO STERN, THE ONLY CONDITION OF THE
CROWN PRINCE (WHO WAS IN PYJAMAS AND DRESSING GOWN)
FOR THE INTERVIEW WAS THAT NO PHOTOGRAPHS BE TAKEN.
STERN QUOTES AN AIDE AS SAYING THAT THE CROWN PRINCE
STILL LOOKED TOO ILL FOR THAT, AND IT WOULD NOT MAKE A
GOOD IMPRESSION.
HILLENBRAND

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION, GOVERNMENT IN EXILE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN15950
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740286-0890
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741061/aaaabzyl.tel
Line Count: 164
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ADDIS ABABA 11895
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STERN INTERVIEW WITH CROWN PRINCE
TAGS: PINT, ET
To: ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005